



MIDDLE EAST DAILY BULLETIN

GÜNLÜK ORTADOĐU BÜLTENİ

Domestic Policy in the Middle East Countries

Bölge Ülkelerinde İç Siyaset

The Restructuring Procces of Iraq

Irak'ın Yeniden Yapılanma Süreci

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1. IRAQ

- **Signs of Regional and Local Conflicts in Iraq's Tal Afar**

The Iraqi government has received a message from the US embassy concerning the liberation of Tal Afar, Iranian news agency, IRNA, reported, but Nineveh MP Sajida al-Afandi said the move has political motives aiming to pressure the government to allow the participation of Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) in the liberation of the city.

More Details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/signs-regional-local-conflicts-iraqs-tal-afar>

- **Iraqi Forces Take over More Districts on New Western Mosul Front**

Federal Police chief, Lt. Gen Shaker Jawdat, said in statements that his forces took over Shuqaq al-Haramat district, while moving forward at al-Haramat al-Thaniya, approaching Ektesadiyen and the major ISIL stronghold district of 17 Tamuz (July 17th), Iraqi News reported.

More Detail:

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960218001288>

- **Iran to resume gas exports to Iraq soon**

NIGC managing director said negotiations had been held with the Iraqi side over banking issues and 50 million cubic meters of gas will be deployed to the neighboring country.

More Details:

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125268/Iran-to-resume-gas-exports-to-Iraq-soon>

- **Iraq Hires US Military Contractors to Secure Baghdad-Amman Highway**

The Iraqi government has signed a contract with US mercenaries to secure a road between Baghdad and the Jordanian capital of Amman.

More Details:

<http://www.albawaba.com/news/iraq-hires-us-military-contractors-secure-baghdad-amman-highway-971704>

- **MP: Kirkuk Kurds raised PKK flag in response to Turkmen hoisting Turkey's**

Kurds in Kirkuk have raised flags of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in response to members of the Turkmen community who had raised Turkish flags during an event, a Kurdish member of the Iraqi parliament has said.

More Details:

<http://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/mp-kirkuk-kurds-raised-pkk-flag-response-turkmen-hoisting-turkeys/>

- **Civilians complicate final phase of Mosul campaign: U.S. commander**

The Islamic State fighters herded a group of civilians into a house in the city of Mosul and locked them inside as Iraqi forces advanced. Moments later, the militants entered through a window, lay low for a few minutes, then fired their weapons.

More Details:

http://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-mosul-usa-idUSKBN1841BG?feedType=RSS&feedName=worldNews&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+Reuters%2FworldNews+%28Reuters+World+News%29&&rpc=401

- **Iraqi Forces Liberate Wadi Aqab Area in West Mosul**

Within the operation to recapture the city of Mosul from Islamic State (IS) militants, the Iraqi forces announced on Sunday full liberation of Wadi Aqab industrial area in west Mosul, said a commander in Iraqi army's elite Counter-Terrorism Service (CTS).

More Details:

<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/iraq/348806>

- **Counter-ISIS Strikes Target Terrorists in Syria, Iraq**

U.S. and coalition military forces continued to attack the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria yesterday, conducting 33 strikes consisting of 84 engagements, Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve officials reported today.

More Details:

<https://www.defense.gov/News/Article/Article/1175613/counter-isis-strikes-target-terrorists-in-syria-iraq/>

- **Iraq Oil and Gas Strategic Analysis and Outlook 2017-2025 - Research and Markets**

Iraq is redesigning its investment and growth strategies with signs of recovery in global markets in 2017. New trends continue to emerge across value chain affecting supply, demand and investment scenarios in the country. Both traditional players and new entrants are reevaluating their planned projects with revised estimates.

More Details:

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/iraq-oil-and-gas-strategic-analysis-and-outlook-2017-2025---research-and-markets-2017-05-08>

- **Iraq's powerful interior minister, now leading fight against ISIS, was held twice by U.S. forces after 2003**

The head of Iraq's powerful interior ministry and the commander of the country's militarized police, now at the forefront of the battle against the Islamic State militant group (ISIS), was held twice by U.S. forces following the 2003 invasion, suspected of aiding the insurgency.

More Details:

http://www.newsweek.com/trained-iran-and-arrested-smuggling-explosives-iraqs-interior-minister-was-us-596161?piano_t=1

- **Iraq Social Fund for Development: Optimism and the rebuilding of trust between citizens and the state**

Iraq is a country of riches... it is one of the few countries in the Middle East that has an abundance of mineral resources, in the form of oil and gas, as well as an abundance of water, with the mighty Tigris and Euphrates rivers streaming through the cradle of civilization. Along with this comes the sheer scale of human capital that was built over the centuries since the founding of Baghdad. It was said that "Cairo writes, Beirut prints, and Baghdad reads".

More Details

<http://blogs.worldbank.org/arabvoices/iraq-social-fund-development>

- **New Ambassador to Iraq announced**

Foreign Affairs Minister Gerry Brownlee has today named Bradley Sawden as New Zealand's next Ambassador to Iraq.

More Details:

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1705/S00160/new-ambassador-to-iraq-announced.htm>

- **French-Kurdish ties “long-term” and will continue: Consul**

French Consul General in Erbil Dominique Mas hails Kurdish-French bilateral ties and “friendship,” believing that these ties will remain steady during the presidency of Emmanuel Macron as Iraq will be on his agenda once he takes office.

More Details:

<http://www.rudaw.net/english/kurdistan/09052017>

- **PM Grindeanu meets Iraq Parliament Speaker Saleem Abdullah al-Jubouri; discuss diversifying Romanian-Iraqi cooperation**

Prime Minister Sorin Grindeanu welcomed at the Victoria Governmental Palace on Monday Iraqi Parliament Speaker Saleem Abdullah al-Jubouri, who is paying a visit to Romania, a Government press release sent to AGERPRES reads.

More Details:

<https://www.agerpres.ro/english/2017/05/08/pm-grindeanu-meets-iraq-parliament-speaker-saleem-abdullah-al-jubouri-discuss-diversifying-romanian-iraqi-cooperation-18-25-55>

- **In war-torn Iraq, political rivals wage battles online**

As battles waged by Iraqi forces against Islamic State (ISIS) militants in Mosul appear to be heading to an end, politicians in the war-torn country are turning their rhetorical guns on each other on various online platforms.

More Details:

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=82992>

- **Iraqi Kurdistan working seriously to unite Peshmerga forces: official**

Iraq’s Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) has worked seriously to organize and unite the Peshmerga armed forces, a Kurdish senior military official said.

More Details:

<http://ekurd.net/iraqi-kurdistan-unite-peshmerga-2017-05-09>

- **Iraqi volunteer fighters liberate 44 villages, kill 725 Daeshis in one month: Cmdr.**

The spokesman for Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units says the pro-government volunteer forces have managed to win back nearly four dozen villages southwest of Mosul within the past month as they are helping government forces in battles against Takfiri Daesh terrorists.

More Details:

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/05/08/521073/Iraq-Hashd-alShaabi-liberate-villages-Mosul-kill-Daesh-terrorists>

- **Iranian Expatriates in Iraq's Karbala to Vote in Presidential Polls: Consul General**

Iran's consul general in the Iraqi city of Karbala said there are a large number of Iranian nationals residing in the holy city and those eligible can cast their ballots in the upcoming presidential election.

More Details:

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/08/1401494/iranian-expatriates-in-iraq-s-karbala-to-vote-in-presidential-polls-consul-general>

- **Displaced Civilians Return to Abu Ghraib; 98 Killed in Iraq**

About 200 families returned home to the Anaz region of Abu Ghraib after being displaced for three years. The delay was caused by the slow removal of explosives.

More Details;

<http://original.antiwar.com/updates/2017/05/08/displace-return-to-abu-ghraib-98-killed-in-iraq/>

2. SYRIA

- **Russia submits draft resolution to UNSC in support of de-escalation zones in Syria**

Russian Mission to the United Nations introduced to the UN Security Council a draft resolution on de-escalation zones in Syria in support of the agreements reached in Astana last week, a source in the Russian mission to the United Nations has said. The source told Sputnik on Sunday that the document welcomed the Memorandum signed on May 4 and called on all parties to respect the ceasefire agreement established in Syria.

More Details

<http://sana.sy/en/?p=105685>

- **Democracy Now Launches Anti-Syria Propaganda Campaign**

"The regime does not fight terrorism. It's actually the single biggest cause of terrorism in Syria. It is the cause of ISIS in Syria. And from — if you talk to Syrians, Bashar al-Assad and the regime is the biggest

More Details

<http://www.syrianews.cc/democracy-now-launches-anti-syria-propaganda-campaign/>

- **Syrian ISIS Militant Sentenced to 12 Years in Prison for Plotting Suicide Attack in Hajj Season**

The Special Criminal Court in Riyadh issued on Sunday a preliminary sentence of 12 years in prison for a Syrian resident on charges of planning a suicide attack targeting the Saudi security forces participating in the Hajj season.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia/syrian-isis-militant-sentenced-12-years-prison-plotting-suicide-attack-hajj-season>

- **Syria backs de-escalation zones memorandum**

Syrian Foreign and Expatriates Minister Walid al-Muallem stressed that the Syrian government supports the memorandum on the creation of four de-escalation zones in Syria which was signed at the end of the fourth round of Astana talks on Syria.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125282/Syria-backs-de-escalation-zones-memorandum>

- **Next Syria peace talks to start in Geneva on May 16: UN**

A new round of United Nations-backed peace talks for war-ravaged Syria is set to begin in Geneva next week, the office of the UN mediator said Monday.

More Details

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2017/may/09/next-syria-peace-talks-to-start-in-geneva-on-may-16-un-1602785.html>

- **Syria: Ceasefire Deal Won't Let In Foreign Troops, Insists Damascus**

Syria's foreign minister stressed yesterday that no UN or other international troops would occupy his country under the latest ceasefire deal. Speaking to reporters in Damascus, Walid al-Moallem reiterated his government's support for the "de-escalation zones" plan agreed at the fourth round of talks in the Kazakh capital Astana last week.

More Details

<http://www.morningstaronline.co.uk/a-e71b-Syria-Ceasefire-deal-wont-let-in-foreign-troops,-insists-Damascus>

- **The Coyote’s Trail – A Machine Gun’s Path from Serbia to Syria**

A batch of heavy machine guns travelled from a Serbian state-owned factory to Syrian rebels, via a Bulgarian arms tycoon and a Saudi training camp, BIRN and OCCRP can reveal.

More Details

<http://www.balkaninsight.com/en/article/the-coyote-s-trail-a-machine-gun-s-path-from-serbia-to-syria-05-08-2017>

- **Egypt and Syria have been “disappearing” their citizens. This is why countries do it.**

Human rights organizations recently reported that activists in Egypt have disappeared after they were stopped at government checkpoints. In Syria, the regime has disappeared thousands in the midst of its brutal civil war. Repressive states in the Middle East have increasingly added the “disappearing” of regime opponents to their means of violence.

More Details

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2017/05/09/why-do-some-regimes-disappear-people/?utm_term=.28531c933634

- **Russia Has Sent One of Its Four A-50U Radar Planes to Syria**

On April 29, 2017, a photograph appeared on social media apparently showing a Beriev A-50 SRDLO — that’s the Russian acronym for “airborne early warning and control system” — in flight over Syria.

More Details

<https://warisboring.com/russia-has-sent-one-of-its-four-a-50u-radar-planes-to-syria/>

- **IS Video Purportedly Shows Beheading Of Russian Officer In Syria**

The extremist group Islamic State (IS) has issued a video showing the beheading of a man it described as a Russian intelligence officer captured in Syria, but the Russian Defense Ministry suggests no such killing has taken place.

More Details

<https://www.rferl.org/a/is-video-purportedly-shows-beheading-of-russian-officer-in-syria/28475913.html>

3. IRAN

- **Death Toll in Iran Mine Blast Rises to 42 as New Bodies Found**

The death toll from a gas explosion and collapse of a coal mine in northeast of Iran rose to 42 as rescue teams retrieved 7 more bodies in the wee hours of Tuesday.

More Details

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2017/05/09/1402085/death-toll-in-iran-mine-blast-rises-to-42-as-new-bodies-found>

- **Iranian DM Unveils 4 New Military Products**

The ceremony was held in Tehran with Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan and Lieutenant Commander of the Iranian Army Brigadier General Abdolrahim Moussavi in attendance. The new products unveiled today include Kalashnikov 133 individual weapon, 'Nasr' 12.7-mm sniper and multi-band software radio named 'Vaase 1' and 'Nasr 2'. The new weapons enjoy high precision-striking power and high destruction power.

More Details

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13960218000912>

- **Saudi Arabia has grown so miserable it joins Israel against Iran: Defense min.**

Iran's defense minister says Saudi Arabia, which has a history of teaming up with other regimes against Tehran, has now become so miserable as to ally itself with Israel against the Islamic Republic.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.ir/Detail/2017/05/09/521155/Iran-defense-minister-Hossein-Dehqan-Saudi-Arabia-miserable-Israel>

- **Border clashes weaken Iran's economic ties with Pakistan**

Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on the phone on Monday, during which he noted that the cross-border terrorist attack on the frontier with Pakistan at Mirjaveh in Sistan-Baluchestan province that killed 10 Iranian border guards was unexpected given the good relations between the two countries.

More Details

<http://en.mehrnews.com/news/125285/Border-clashes-weaken-Iran-s-economic-ties-with-Pakistan>

- **Iran starts exports from South Pars oil layer**

Hamid Bovard, the managing director of Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), made the remarks in a press conference on the sidelines of Iran Oil Show 2017 in Tehran. The official said that 25,000 barrels of crude is extracted from the South Pars oil layer, located in the Persian Gulf, on a daily basis, IRNA reported on Monday.

More Details

<http://www.tehrantimes.com/news/413259/Iran-starts-exports-from-South-Pars-oil-layer>

- **Iran's Rouhani congratulates Macron on presidential victory**

President Hassan Rouhani has congratulated Emmanuel Macron on his emphatic victory in the French presidential election, expressing hope that the relations between the two countries would further deepen in line with their common interests.

More Details

http://parstoday.com/en/news/iran-i52322-iran%E2%80%99s_rouhani_congratulates_macron_on_presidential_victory

- **Iran Test-Fires High Speed Torpedo near Strait of Hormuz – Reports**

Last week, Fox News reported citing Pentagon officials that an Iranian Yono-class submarine had attempted a missile launch on March 2 but the test failed.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705081053393185-iran-strait-hormuz/>

- **Iran warns will hit militant 'safe havens' inside Pakistan**

The head of the Iranian armed forces warned Islamabad on Monday that Tehran would hit bases inside Pakistan if the government does not confront Sunni militants who carry out cross-border attacks.

More Details

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-pakistan-security-idUSKBN1840SY>

- **Iran's foreign ministry bans work on disputed gas field**

Iran's foreign ministry has banned the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) from any activity at the disputed Arash gas field, Hamid Bovard, managing director of the IOOC, said.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/iran/business/2751647.html>

- **Majlis Speaker: Arrogant powers trying to cause trouble in region**

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani reacting to the war rhetoric by some Saudi official, said on Tuesday that arrogant powers are trying to cause trouble in the region.

More Details

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/82522355/>

4. ISRAEL – PALESTINE

- **Palestinians mourn Fatima Hjeiji in the West Bank**

At the Hjeiji family home in the occupied West Bank village of Qarawat Bani Zeid, classmates, friends and relatives of Fatima Hjeiji lined up to pay their respects. One by one, the women and girls hugged Fatima's mother Dareen and offered sympathetic words.

More Details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/palestinians-mourn-fatima-hjeiji-west-bank-170509011852306.html>

- **New Hamas chief makes first public appearance**

Gaza's former Hamas prime minister, Ismail Haniyeh, has replaced Qatar-based Khaled Mashaal as the Palestinian group's leader. Haniyeh, who also served as Mashaal's deputy for four years, is seen as a pragmatist within Hamas who will likely seek to improve the group's international standing. Unlike his predecessor, Haniyeh is also expected to remain based in Gaza. The 54-year-old's sudden return to power is regarded as another sign of a shift within the movement that has been governing Gaza for a decade to recolonize the diaspora in Gaza.

More Details

<http://www.dw.com/en/new-hamas-chief-makes-first-public-appearance/a-38758414>

- **Israel considers bill that would downgrade Arabic from official language**

The bill, sponsored by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party, would make Hebrew the sole official language of Israel. Arabic would continue to enjoy a "special status" with "its speakers [having] the right to language-accessible state services," according to Israeli newspaper

Haaretz. Government services would be made available in Arabic, an availability which is not universal at this time.

More Details

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705091053401171-israel-bill-arabic-official-language/>

- **Vandals Slash Tires, Spray anti-Arab Graffiti in East Jerusalem and Northern Israel**

About 20 vehicles were vandalized in East Jerusalem early Tuesday morning in what police are calling a suspected anti-Arab hate crime. Some of the cars in the Shoafat neighborhood had their tires slashed and others were spray-painted with the words "administrative price tag."

More Details

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/1.788109>

- **Netanyahu dumps Hamas policy paper**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday symbolically tossed into a bin a Hamas policy paper published last week that set out an apparent softening of the Palestinian Islamist group's stance towards Israel. In a document issued last Monday, Hamas said it was dropping its longstanding call for Israel's destruction, but said it still rejected the Jewish state's right to exist and continued to back "armed struggle" against it. The Israeli Government has said the document aimed to deceive the world that Hamas was becoming more moderate.

More Details

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=399854>

- **PA claims funding anti-Israel terror advances peace**

Ahead of President Donald Trump's visit to Israel scheduled for May 22nd to the 23rd, Palestinian Authority chairman Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah faction responded to questions raised by Trump regarding the funding of jailed terrorists with a novel explanation, Palestinian Media Watch reported. President Trump, who is expected to visit Abbas in Ramallah during his stay in Israel, met with Abbas in Washington last Wednesday.

More Details

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/229341>

- **Palestinian teen, in Israel on peace visit, charged for Tel Aviv stabbing**

Palestinian teenager was charged with terrorism and four counts of attempted murder on Monday for carrying out a stabbing attack in Tel Aviv last month. According to the indictment filed in the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court, Imad Agbar, 18, from Nablus, confessed to going on a stabbing spree with wire-cutters in the lobby of the Leonardo Beach hotel on April 23.

More Details

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/palestinian-teen-charged-for-tel-aviv-stabbing-attack/>

- **Israel's Delek Seeks London Listing as Energy Group Goes Global**

Delek Group Ltd., the Israeli energy company that bought U.K. oil explorer Ithaca Energy Inc. this year, is seeking a London listing to help further overseas expansion. "If Delek Group wants to be international, we have to be traded on an international exchange and I think London is one of the good places to be in," Asaf Bartfeld, the company's president and chief executive officer, said Monday in an interview. "In the near future, we plan to be listed in London."

More Details

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-05-09/israel-s-delek-seeks-london-listing-as-energy-group-goes-global>

- **US military chief in Israel to discuss bilateral ties**

Dunford arrived in Tel Aviv on Monday and was slated to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and ministry of military affairs, Avigdor Liberman. He would also meet with the Israeli military's Chief of Staff Gadi Eisenkot and other commanders during the short stay.

More Details

<http://www.presstv.com/Detail/2017/05/09/521178/US-Dunford-Israel-Palestine-Trump-mattis-Netanyahu-Daesh-Syria>

5. JORDAN and LEBANON

- **Hariri Has No 'Rescue Initiative' for Electoral Stalemate**

A ministerial committee tasked with studying a new electoral law for the parliamentary elections will convene on Tuesday, amid reports denying that Prime Minister Saad Hariri has a "rescue initiative" up his sleeve, al-Joumhouria daily reported. The daily said the overall picture is pessimistic, unless a promising outcome emerges from the committee meeting which will be chaired by Hariri at the Grand Serail and will discuss a voting system draft.

More Details

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/229746-report-hariri-has-no-rescue-initiative-for-electoral-stalemate>

- **Sami Gemayel underlines need to reach new fair election law**

Kataeb Party chief MP Sami Gemayel on Monday called for endorsing a new fair election law with patent and correct standards, saying that holding elections according to 1960 vote law means four-year Parliament term extension. "We shall proceed with our battle... The change is coming and the logic of deals shall end," MP Gemayel said at a press conference at the Kataeb's headquarters in Saifi, where he extensively dwelt on the dossiers related to electricity and the forthcoming legislative polls.

More Details

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/78999/Sami-Gemayel-underlines-need-to-reach-new-fair-election-law>

- **IMF in Jordan**

In the last Economic Policies Council meeting, which was chaired by His Majesty King Abdullah on May 3, the discussion focused on the initiative to give economic growth a big push. Such an agenda has transformed the councils' role from proposing laws and new directives to an instrument overseeing the economic plans and monitoring their respective implementation.

More Details

<http://jordantimes.com/opinion/jawad-anani/imf-jordan>

- **Mashnouq: Fighting terrorism should be common goal among Arabs**

Minister of Interior and Municipalities, Nohad Mashnouq, on Monday highlighted the necessity to fight terrorism and extremism with the joint efforts of the Arab countries. "Security is no more confined to a given country; yet it has become intertwined among all states, just like social media. Security has become a common [concern]," Mashnouq said at the inauguration of the Arab Police Tactical Shooting Championship, at Wissam Hassan casern.

More Details

<http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/78995/Mashnouq-Fighting-terrorism-should-be-common-goal-among-Arabs>

- **Israel Starts Building Fence along Lebanese Border**

The Israeli Defense Ministry is set to soon start building a new fence along the Lebanese border to prevent any threat caused by the “infiltration of armed militants”.The decision came when Tel Aviv discovered a week ago a Lebanese young man in the Kiryat Shmona town after he infiltrated it through the border and walk several kilometers inside Israeli territories.

More Details

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/israel-starts-building-fence-along-lebanese-border>

- **Azerbaijan, Jordan to mull bilateral co-op intensification**

Azerbaijan and Jordan will discuss the intensification of bilateral relations during visit of Speaker of Jordan’s House of Representatives Atef Tarawneh to Baku May 9, Ambassador of Jordan Nassar Al-Habashneh told Trend May 8.The ambassador said Tarawneh will take part in the opening of the 4th Islamic Solidarity Games.

More Details

<http://en.trend.az/azerbaijan/politics/2751464.html>

- **King meets delegation of US congressional aides**

Amman, May 8 (Petra) His Majesty King Abdullah II on Monday, discussed with a delegation of US congressional aides, Jordanian-US cooperation and strategic partnership, as well as current regional developments.The meeting Al Husseinia Palace also dealt with efforts to push the peace process between the Palestinians and Israelis forward on the basis of the two-state solution as well as the war on terrorism.

More Details

petra.gov.jo/Public_News/Nws_NewsDetails.aspx?lang=2&site_id=1&NewsID=300976&CatID=13

- **Jordan, US launch Eager Lion military exercise**

Jordan and the United States kicked off Eager Lion, an annual military exercise with about 7,400 troops from more than 20 nations taking part, on Sunday. US and Jordanian officials said the manoeuvres would include border security, cyber-defence, and "command and control" exercises to bolster coordination in response to threats including "terrorism".

More Details

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/jordan-launch-major-military-exercises-170507163242013.html>

- **Poll: 65 Percent of Jordanians Want Syrian Refugees to 'Go Back to Their Country'**

Fifty per cent of mainstream Jordanians believe that the situation in the country is moving in the “wrong” direction, compared with 48 per cent who expressed an optimistic outlook, according to a recent opinion poll. Conducted by the University of Jordan’s Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) 200 days after the formation of Prime Minister Hani Mulki’s government, the poll showed that 55 per cent of opinion leaders consider things to be heading on the right path in Jordan, compared with 41 per cent who disagree.

More Details

<http://www.albawaba.com/business/jordan-economy-syrian-refugees-poll-971520>

- **Outcry over security gaps in Bekaa, south Beirut**

Lawmakers from Baalbeck and Hermel Monday reiterated calls for officials to more effectively combat security breaches in east Lebanon, a week after residents of Baalbeck held a general strike over the issue.

More Details

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Lebanon-News/2017/May-09/405049-outcry-over-security-gaps-in-bekaa-south-beirut.ashx>

6. ARABIAN PENINSULA AND THE GULF OF BASRA

- **Trump Maintains National Emergency Status for Yemen**

US President Donald Trump said in a statement that he is going to uphold the warring parties a state of national emergency for Yemen, saying that warring parties in the country continue to threaten its peace, security, and stability.

More details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705091053402116-trump-yemen-national-emergency/>

- **Saudi navy discovers mines planted off Yemeni coast**

The Coalition Forces Command in Support of Legitimacy in Yemen announced on Monday that the Royal Saudi Navy vessels belonging to the Coalition were successful in locating a number of maritime mines planted off the Yemeni coast near the port of Midi.

More details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/saudi-navy-discovers-mines-planted-off-yemeni-coast/>

- **PM sees considerable scope to boost trade ties with Oman**

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif says there is a considerable scope to enhance cooperation between Pakistan and Oman in trade, commerce, investment and other sectors.

More details:

<https://www.dawn.com/news/1331924/pm-sees-considerable-scope-to-boost-trade-ties-with-oman>

- **Ambassador meets Bahrain's Deputy PM: Bahrain, Sri Lanka to enhance tourism, work opportunities**

Bahrain's Ambassador for Sri Lanka Dr Saj Mendis met Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdulla Al Khalifa at Gudaibiya Palace of the Prime Minister recently.

More details:

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2017/05/09/business/115388/ambassador-meets-bahrain%E2%80%99s-deputy-pm-bahrain-sri-lanka-enhance-tourism>

- **Secretary Tillerson's Meeting with Qatari Foreign Minister Al Thani**

Secretary Tillerson met with Qatari Foreign Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and reaffirmed the strong relationship between our two countries. During their meeting, the leaders emphasized their mutual commitment to work toward a stronger partnership and a more secure region.

More details:

<https://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2017/05/270732.htm>

- **UAE Completes Construction of First Nuclear Reactor in The Arab World**

The Arab world's first nuclear reactor was completed in the United Arab Emirates on Saturday, symbolizing the region's slow march towards renewable and alternative energy sources.

More details:

http://oilprice.com/Latest-Energy-News/World-News/UAE-Completes-Construction-Of-First-Nuclear-Reactor-In-The-Arab-World.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+oilpricecom+%28Oil+Price.com+Daily+News+Update%29

- **Saudi Arabia, S. Korea model of friendly, constructive relations: Prince Sultan**

Prince Sultan bin Salman, chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and National Heritage (SCTH), said relations between Saudi Arabia and South Korea are deep rooted, distinguished and historical, and enjoy particular attention from King Salman.

More details:

<http://www.arabnews.com/node/1096726/saudi-arabia>

- **Further Destabilizing Region, Iran Issues Fresh Warnings to Saudi Arabia and Pakistan**

Iran has issued threats to two nearby nations in recent days, further indicating that it is a destabilizing force in the region.

More details:

<http://www.thetower.org/further-destabilizing-region-iran-issues-fresh-warnings-to-saudi-arabia-and-pakistan/>

- **U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia omits Trump Israel visit**

A senior House Democrat on Monday blasted the U.S. Embassy in Saudi Arabia after it posted online an a video that edited out mention of President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Israel, The Associated Press reports.

More details:

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/229330>

- **Saudi Arabia: Counterterrorism is Shared Responsibility Demanding Multilateral Cooperation**

The government of Saudi Arabia welcomed the joint statement issued by the recently held Saudi-Qatari Coordinating Council meeting. Ensuring the safety, security and stability of Arab people in the region, it mandates that reason prevails and conditions multilateral action to combating terrorism.

More details:

<http://english.aawsat.com/theaawsat/news-middle-east/saudi-arabia/saudi-arabia-counterterrorism-shared-responsibility-demanding-multilateral-cooperation>

7. EGYPT

- **Bahrain, Egypt to boost trade ties**

His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander, yesterday welcomed Abdelfattah Al Sisi, President of Egypt, to the headquarters of the Economic Development Board (EDB) at Bahrain Bay.

More details:

<http://www.newsofbahrain.com/viewNews.php?ppId=33169&TYPE=Posts&pid=21&MNU=2&SUB=1>

- **Egypt sentences top Brotherhood guide to life in jail**

An Egyptian court on Monday sentenced the top leader of the Muslim Brotherhood group to life sentence over charges of murder and violence, official news agency MENA reported.

More details:

http://www.china.org.cn/world/2017-05/09/content_40773557.htm

- **Egypt air force destroys vehicles crossing from Libya**

The Egyptian military has flown multiple raids and destroyed 15 four-by-four vehicles crossing from Libya, deploying fighter jets and helicopter gunships in an operation that spanned 48 hours.

More details:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/egypt-air-force-destroys-vehicles-crossing-libya-170508191413767.html>

- **Egypt-Russian Kamov Ka-52K Deal in Final Stages**

Egypt is in the final stages of deciding on the purchase of Russian Helicopters' Kamov Ka-52K.

More details:

<http://helihub.com/2017/05/08/egypt-russian-kamov-ka-52k-deal-in-final-stages/>

- **Who is Egypt's top 11 corporate taxpayers?**

Egyptian Ministry of Finance revealed Sunday 11 companies paying the most tax in the country during the tax season ended on April 30, 2017.

More details:

<http://en.amwalalghad.com/business/financial-institutions/56708-who-is-egypts-top-11-corporate-taxpayers.html>

- **Al-Sisi congratulates Macron after winning French presidency**

President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi congratulated his new French counterpart Emmanuel Macron on Sunday, asserting “the depth and strength of Egyptian-French relations,” the Egyptian presidency said in a statement.

More details:

<http://www.dailynewsegypt.com/2017/05/08/al-sisi-congratulates-macron-winning-french-presidency/>

- **Egypt to receive \$1.2b IMF loan in June**

Egypt expects to receive a second instalment, worth \$1.2 billion, of a three-year International Monetary Fund loan in the second half of June.

More details:

<http://gulftoday.ae/portal/7e25b79e-28c8-4c46-a439-404a9e379102.aspx>

- **New life sentence issued against Mohamed Badie in Egypt**

Badie was part of a group of 37 people accused of conspiring to stir unrest during protests that followed the July 2013 military-led ouster of Egypt’s former Islamist president Mohammad Mursi, who hailed from the Brotherhood.

More details:

http://en.abna24.com/news/africa/new-life-sentence-issued-against-mohamed-badie-in-egypt_828591.html

- **Who might run for Egypt's 2018 presidential elections?**

Next year's elections were recently brought to the forefront after prominent political activist and former presidential candidate Hamdeen Sabahy called for all political factions to unite and choose a candidate for the upcoming presidential elections.

More details:

<http://www.egyptindependent.com//news/who-might-run-egypt-s-2018-presidential-elections>

8. NORTH AFRICA

- **Algeria summons Tunisian ambassador over 'communist state' remark**

Algeria summoned Tunisia's ambassador to Algiers on Sunday after a Tunisian minister described Algeria as a "communist state" at a conference in Rome.

More Details:

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2017/5/8/algeria-summons-tunisian-ambassador-over-communist-state-remark>

- **Library opened in Algeria to honour 'Martyr of Knowledge' Fatima Gholam**

In compliance with the directives of Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, to establish 10 libraries in the name of Fatima Gholam the "Martyr of Knowledge," who passed away as she was heading to participate in the final round of the Arab Reading Challenge in Algeria, the team started the first of the libraries in the deceased's school in Adrar in South West Algeria.

More Details:

<http://wam.ae/en/details/1395302612807>

- **ICC wants to investigate human trafficking in Libya**

The International Criminal Court is considering whether to investigate migrant-related crimes in Libya, which has become a "marketplace" for human trafficking, the chief prosecutor said Monday.

More Details:

<http://www.digitaljournal.com/news/world/icc-wants-to-investigate-human-trafficking-in-libya/article/492155>

- **Boris Johnson raised compensation for IRA victims with Libyan leader**

Foreign Secretary Boris Johnston raised compensation for IRA victims in a meeting with Libya's prime minister in Tripoli last week, the News Letter can confirm.

More Details:

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/boris-johnson-raised-compensation-for-ira-victims-with-libyan-leader-1-7952104>

- **113 migrants missing after boat sinks off Libya: IOM**

At least 113 people are missing after a boat carrying migrants sank off the coast of Libya, the Italian ANSA news agency said Monday citing the International Organization for Migration.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/europe/113-migrants-missing-after-boat-sinks-off-libya-iom/814052>

- **King receives a message from Tunisia's president**

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman received a message from Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi. The message was delivered to the King by Lazhar Karoui Chebbi, minister and personal representative of the Tunisian president, during a meeting at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah on Monday.

More Details:

<http://saudigazette.com.sa/saudi-arabia/king-receives-message-tunisia-president/>

- **Tunisian job protests hit oil and gas output**

Protests over jobs and development in southern and central Tunisia have halted production at or shut the fields of two foreign energy companies in a new challenge to the country's Prime Minister Youssef Chahed.

More Details:

<http://www.middleeasteye.net/news/tunisian-job-protests-hit-oil-and-gas-output-349923782>

- **Morocco, Spain Dismantle Daesh Cell in Counter-Terror Operatin**

Morocco's Central Bureau of Judicial Investigation (BCIJ) and Spanish security authorities have broken up a three-member cell linked to Daesh terrorist group (banned in Russia) as part of a counter-terrorism effort, Moroccan media reported Monday, citing the country's Interior Ministry.

More Details:

<https://sputniknews.com/middleeast/201705091053399793-morocco-spain-daesh-cell/>

- **FPCCI delegation visiting Morocco**

A high-profile delegation of 13 businessmen from the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) has left for Morocco. The purpose of the visit is to increase the bilateral trade between both countries.

More Details:

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/203366-FPCCI-delegation-visiting-Morocco>

9. AFGHANISTAN – PAKISTAN

- **China urges for thaw in Pakistan-Afghanistan ties after border clashes**

Heavy fighting on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border has reportedly sparked fears in China over the dispute's potential impact on the US\$50 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative.

More Details:

<https://asiancorrespondent.com/2017/05/china-urges-thaw-pakistan-afghanistan-ties-border-clashes/#3GUKPjGOxuUIWZOo.97>

- **Pakistan's Aziz Says Dialogue Needed to Settle Dispute**

Sartaj Aziz said the incident was unfortunate but maintains over 50 Afghan soldiers were killed in last week's Spin Boldak skirmish. Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said at a press conference on Monday that there was a need for bilateral dialogue between Pakistan and Afghanistan to settle disputes.

More Details:

<http://www.tolonews.com/afghanistan/pakistan%E2%80%99s-aziz-says-dialogue-needed-settle-dispute>

- **VP Criticizes Lack of Transparency in Government Recruitment Process**

Second Vice-President, Sarwar Danesh in EU annual conference titled 'intensifying counter corruption in Afghanistan' held yesterday at presidential palace criticized on appointment process of employees in government institutions.

More Details:

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/politics/item/28512-vp-criticizes-lack-of-transparency-in-government-recruitment-process.html>

- **Explosion Kills Senior Religious Official In Afghan Province**

A senior religious official was killed and at least seven people wounded in a bomb attack in eastern Afghan province of Parwan on Tuesday, reported local media Tolo News, according to China's Xinhua news agency.

More Details:

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/wn/newsworld.php?id=1354384>

- **Iran, Afghanistan Starting Long-Term Strategic Cooperation**

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with several senior Afghan officials during his day-long trip to Kabul on Sunday. According to Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi, Zarif had fruitful talks with his Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani, President Ashraf Ghani, National Security Advisor Hanif Atmar, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah and former President Hamid Karzai.

More Details:

<http://ifpnews.com/exclusive/iran-afghanistan-starting-cooperation/>

- **Taliban Broaden Their Reach in Villages across Afghanistan**

The Taliban have expanded their military fight against Afghanistan's government into a drive to govern villages across the country, deepening the formidable challenge U.S.-backed forces face in trying to uproot the insurgency.

More Details:

https://www.wsj.com/articles/taliban-broaden-their-reach-in-villages-across-afghanistan-1494235804?mod=rss_asia_whats_news

- **Trump advisers call for thousands more U.S. troops in Afghanistan**

Senior Trump administration and military officials are recommending sending several thousand additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan to try to break a military deadlock in the 15-year war there, in part by pressuring the Taliban to negotiate with the Afghan government.

More Details:

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/trump-advisers-call-for-thousands-more-us-troops-in-afghanistan/article34928901/>

- **Peace with Afghanistan and India**

Conceptually and from the perspective of attaining a lasting peace in the region and setting into motion the process of shared economic prosperity, the peaceful neighbourhood policy being pursued by the present government is a visionary move. But it is regrettable to note that the overtures made by Pakistan to orchestrate bonhomie with Afghanistan and mending fences with India have not been reciprocated.

More Details:

<http://pakobserver.net/peace-afghanistan-india/>

- **Sohail Mahmood, Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India, will constantly walk a tightrope**

Pakistan's new high commissioner designate to India, Sohail Mahmood, may well view his posting as one that caps a successful career. Equally, however, it could end on a high decibel note; not only due to tensions between the two neighbours, but also because of political infighting in Pakistan.

More Details:

<http://www.firstpost.com/world/sohail-mahmood-pakistans-new-high-commissioner-to-india-will-constantly-walk-a-tightrope-3432578.html>

- **PTI to sue Nawaz for 'taking funds' from Bin Ladin**

Relying on the 'revelations' made in certain interviews and a book, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) intends to open up a shady chapter in the country's political history from late 1980s in an apparent bid to further malign Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

More Details:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1404825/pti-sue-nawaz-taking-funds-bin-ladin/>

10. TURKEY AND THE MIDDLE EAST

- **PKK camps in north Iraq targeted by Turkish airstrikes**

The Turkish Air Force destroyed PKK terrorist camps in northern Iraq early Tuesday, the military said. Air raids on camps in Metina, Zap, Avasin-Basyan and Gara led to the destruction of three caves and four bunkers, the Turkish General Staff said in a statement.

More Details:

<http://aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/pkk-camps-in-north-iraq-targeted-by-turkish-airstrikes/814333>

- **Erdogan criticises Israel's "racist" and "discriminatory" practises**

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday criticised Israel's "racist" and "discriminatory" practises against Palestinians. He said Turkey would continue to support the "diplomatic efforts led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas" and called on the international community to "show needed care" on Jerusalem-related issues.

More Details:

<http://www.trtworld.com/turkey/erdogan-criticises-israels-racist-and-discriminatory-practises-352068>

This media summary is prepared by **ORSAM Middle East Research Assistant Firuze Yağmur Gökler. It covers news and commentaries as reported by the national media sources publishing in the Middle Eastern countries. The views expressed are not those of ORSAM and their inclusion does not imply factual accuracy.*

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